

Public Forum on Regional EMS Councils
Richmond Marriott West
Richmond, Virginia
February 25, 2008
7:00 p.m.

PAT Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present	Board Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present	Board Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present	Board Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present
Gary P. Critzer, EMS Council Board President, PAT Chair	Lou Ann Miller, RRMCC	Scott Winston, OEMS	Kent Weber, TEMS/Virginia Beach EMS
Dr. Rob Logan, EMS Council Executive Director	David Edwards, OEMS	Paul Sharpe, OEMS	Bill Downs, TJEMS
Tina Skinner, EMS Council Executive Director	Chip Decker, Richmond Ambulance Authority	Mike Berg, OEMS	Jeff Meyer, PEMS
Dr. Scott Weir, Operational Medical Director	Jim Masten, PEMS	Dennis Molnar, OEMS	Connie Purvis, BREMS
Dr. Jack Potter, Designated Trauma Center Representative	Rodney Newton, Victoria Fire & Rescue	Rohn Brown, OEMS	Matt Cobb, Office of Attorney General
Dr. Theresa Guins, Physician Member of EMS Advisory Board	Chuck White, Williamsburg Fire Dept.	Jim Nogle, OEMS	Jim Chandler, TEMS
Junior Thompson (for Donna Burns), Vice President of TJEMS	Willard Hicks, James City Fire & PEMS	Wanda Street, OEMS	David Cullen, CSEMS
Dreama Chandler, VAVRS President	Micky Grodski, Bensley Bermuda Vol. Rescue	Frank Cheatham, OEMS	Heidi Hooker, ODEMSA
Randy Abernathy, VAGEMSA President	Bubby Bish, EMS Advisory Board	Christy Saldana, OEMS	Robert Holloway, Poquoson Fire & Rescue
Chris Eudailey, Virginia Fire Chief's Assoc. Representative	Gregory Woods, Southwest VA EMS Council	Amanda Davis, OEMS	Jesse Wood, Poquoson Fire & Rescue
Scott Hudson, Rural Based EMS Service Representative	R. W. Baber, Henrico Fire Division	Chad Blosser, OEMS	Marianna Bedway, Mary Washington Hospital
Bruce Edwards, EMS Advisory Board Member	Rick Bucher, ODEMSA	Greg Neiman, OEMS	Allen Bober, Southside EMS Council
Jason Campbell, Virginia Professional Fire Fighter/VML Representative	Lisa Atkins, New Kent Fire Rescue	Jimmy Burch, OEMS	Eddie McClellan, Winchester Fire & Rescue, Lord Fairfax EMS Council
Gary R. Brown, OEMS Director	Kelly Hale, Cumberland Co. Emergency Services Assoc.	Beth Singer, OEMS	Tracey McLaurin, Lord Fairfax EMS Council
Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz, Virginia Department of	Robert Baratta, Capital Results	Robert Ryalls, James City County Fire & EMS	Garland Nuckols, TJEMS
Tim Perkins, OEMS Staff to PAT	Morris Reece, WVEMS	Ed Rhodes, Rhodes Consulting	Jo Richmond, PEMS

PAT Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present	Board Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present	Board Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present	Board Members, OEMS Staff, and Others Present
Mark McTheny, Northrop Grumman Fire Dept.	Gary Dalton, LFEMSC, EMS Advisory Board	Thomas Schwalenberg, York County Fire and Life Safety	
Jeannie Dunston, PEMS	Tom Ezell, PEMS	Mary Langford, FWRS (ODEMSA)	Mark Westfall, PEMS
Clyde Rising, Abingdon Vol. Fire & Rescue, James City Co. Fire Dept.	Wayne Haller, CMVRS- Urbanna Rescue	Jesse Holmes, King & Queen Vol. Rescue Squad	Curtis Mason, Mattaponi Vol. Rescue Squad
Sherrin Alsop, VACO, King & Queen Vol. Rescue Squad	Linda Hale, Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	Margaret Heinrich, Goochland Co. Fire & Rescue	Gregory Jones, EMS Med Flight I
Max Bornstein, Prince George Fire & EMS	John "Ed" Snyder, Tri-City Fire Chiefs, Colonial Heights Fire & EMS	John McCormick, Mathews Vol. Rescue Squad	E. S. Gentry, Glo. Co. Sheriff
Gaylord Ray, Rappahannock Comm. College EMS Program	Tim Doss, Gloucester Co. Emergency Services	Jason Monk, Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue, PEMS Council	Belinda Pasker, VDH, PMRC
William Tolson, Montross Vol. Rescue Squad	Suzanne Tolson, EMS Programs Dir. Rapp. Comm. College, Montross VRS	Lewis Kerns, Gloucester Vol. Fire & Rescue	Phillip Veek, Abingdon Vol. Fire & Rescue
Mike Hudgins, Abingdon Vol. Fire & Rescue	Robert Crump, Middlesex Co. Board of Supervisors & EMS	Wayne Evans, Middlesex Co. Vol. Rescue Squad	Charles Culley, County Administrator, Middlesex County
Melinda Duncan, NOVA EMS Council	Thomas Owens, NOVA Fire Chiefs Committee	George Brown, NOVA EMS Council	Byron Andrews, State Firefighters Association, NOVA EMS Council
Karen Wagner, EMS Advisory Board	Del. Harvey Morgan, PEMS	Cheryl Lawson, Medical Director for PEMS Council	Gary Kavit, Riverside Regional Medical Center

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order:	The public hearing was promptly called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Michael Berg of the Office of Emergency Medical Services. Michael quickly read over the rules of the speakers and advised them that written comments must be received by fax, mail or email within 14 days of the oral presentation. Everyone has a five minute time limit.	
Speakers:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate Harvey Morgan, representing the Middle Peninsula Area (PEMS). Delegate Harvey read a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Perkins from Senator Brian McDougal. The current PEMS Council should be retained as a separate and distinct service area. In the proposed realignment, the natural barriers were not considered. 2. Ed Snyder, representing the Tri-City Fire Chiefs Association and Colonial Heights Fire Dept. On January 17, 2008 the Tri-City Fire Chiefs Association voted unanimously opposing Map A mainly because it split the tri-city area away from the Richmond metropolitan area. Nearly 100 percent of patient center transfers are transported to Richmond area hospitals, not south to Emporia or South Hill, west to Farmville or east to Tidewater. As for Maps B and C, the Tri-City Chief's and the City of Colonial Heights would be in support of those two proposals because it keeps the region intact. 	

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Max Bornstein, representing the Crater EMS Council and Prince George Fire & EMS. Crater Council does not support Map A. But does support Map C. 4. Renee Roundtree, representing Riverside Regional's Trauma and Emergency Services. Riverside is a strong supporter of the PEMS region and has been for years. The volunteer medical directors will quit if the regions are changed. The PEMS region is not broken and does not need "fixing". 5. Dr. Gaylord Ray, representing the PEMS region. Dr. Ray wants to know the real reason behind the change. He wants everyone affected by the realignment to discuss and reach a consensus. 6. Dr. Cheryl Lawson, representing Riverside Regional Medical Center & Medical Director for PEMS Council. Made comparisons between TEMS and PEMS regions. Does not support any realignment changes. Do it right the first time. 7. Jeff Meyer, Executive Director of the PEMS Council. We recommend retaining the current PEMS region as a separate and distinct service area as an eighth or seventh region in the proposed realignment for the following three reasons: EMS agency representation, natural barriers, and several strong and protective programs such as the Performance Improvement program, STAT box medication program and removal of hospital diversion. 8. Mark Westfall, representing Gloucester Co. Emergency Services – Did not speak. 9. Michael Hudgins, representing Abingdon Vol. Fire & Rescue. He feels that it will not be economical for the volunteers of region to realign PEMS with the TEMS region. 10. Phillip Veek, representing Abingdon Volunteer Fire & Rescue in Gloucester Co. Of the 55 agencies in the PEMS region, 43 are volunteer and 12 are paid/combination departments. He pointed out the increased travel time and increased travel costs and frustration to attend meetings. It is his desire to keep PEMS boundaries as they currently are. 11. Thomas Schwalenberg, Battalion Chief of York County Department of Fire and Life Safety. We strongly believe the proposed realignment of the current PEMS region, which entails molding us into Region B, is not in the best interest of our agencies, our communities or the citizens that we serve. Therefore, we strongly oppose the elimination or break up the PEMS service council. 12. Bob Ryalls, District Chief of James City County Fire Department. My proposal is to issue a modified contract for a period of two years vs. three years where the current board of directors and affected agencies for the new proposed areas will have an opportunity to have open dialog and frank discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed area changes. This will allow the EMS system in Virginia to truly evaluate the proposed changes without the "highly emotional baggage" we are currently dealing with in addressing this issue. 13. Chuck White, EMS provider and EMS Administrator for Williamsburg Fire Department. The PEMS region has spent decades refining its structure and goals to meet the needs of the diverse group of rural volunteers, small suburban combinations, and larger urban departments. The proposed reorganization would undoubtedly dilute the voices of the smaller agencies and unbalance the system we've spent years developing. Bridges and tunnels present very real 	

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	<p>impediments to our interaction with the TEMS region. Urges OEMS to seriously consider the altering of the PEMS and TEMS regions and to preserve the integrity of both regions.</p> <p>14. John McCormick, representing Mathews Co. Vol. Rescue Squad. We are in favor of keeping the PEMS region the way it currently is.</p> <p>15. Steve Gentry, Sheriff of Gloucester County. On February 5 the Board of Supervisors held a meeting to recommend retaining the current PEMS Council structure. They also recommended adding an 8th region to the proposed council realignment thus leaving PEMS intact.</p> <p>16. Larry Wagner, representing Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad. Does not desire the PEMS and TEMS regions to converge. They feel that the proposed reorganization will not be cost effective. They urge that the proposal be withdrawn and a dialogue commenced that will allow an informed discussion of ways to restructure the EMS councils to assist all of us in reaching our common goal.</p> <p>17. Charles Culley, Middlesex County Administrator. It is our belief that if any of the “proposed” regional alignments go into effect, it will be detrimental to Middlesex County and our citizens which have come to rely on the services provided by our EMS personnel under the direction and leadership of PEMS. Therefore, on behalf of The Middlesex Board of Supervisors, Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squads, and the citizens of our community, we recommend retaining the current PEMS council as a separate and distinct service area.</p> <p>18. Rick Bucher, representing Powhatan County Vol. Rescue Squad. We support Map C from the ODEMSA perspective.</p> <p>19. Kelly Hale, representing Cumberland County Emergency Services Association. We are requesting an extension on the current reorganization plan for an analysis including short-term and long-term affect on patient care in the field as it relates to current pre-hospital activities, mutual aid and clinical agreements, and regional training, protocols and planning. In addition, a cost impact study, to evaluate the financial implications of the proposed changes.</p> <p>20. Marianna Bedway, representing Mary Washington Hospital. Would like OEMS to keep the REMS region as close to intact as possible.</p> <p>21. Rev. Tom Williams, Director of Emergency Services of Culpeper County. In 2000, the Rappahannock-Rapidan EMS Council was told they were going to merge with the Rappahannock EMS Council in Fredericksburg. They were upset and did not trust the people in Fredericksburg. They have since learned to trust them and have forged a wonderful working relationship. He encouraged the PAT to ask the councils what they think and what they want to do. We in Culpeper ask that you leave the Rappahannock Council as it is, don’t send us across the mountain. We have nothing in common with Northern Virginia.</p> <p>22. Gary Kavit, Medical Director for Riverside Regional Medical Center. There is a huge difference in philosophy between TEMS and PEMS. We’ve gotten rid of diversion several years ago, and it has been extremely successful. It will be an extreme step backwards to go back to a system with diversion. Riverside is a Level II center, but we function as a Level I. Please keep the system as is.</p> <p>23. Margaret Heinrick, representing Goochland County Fire & Rescue Association. We</p>	

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	<p>recommend lengthening the timeline of notification. We support Map C because it had the least amount of redistricting, therefore, lessening the impact of change. We would like a cost analysis be conducted in considering the proposed changes. I would like to recommend that Goochland County remain within the ODEMSA service area.</p> <p>24. George Brown, representing Northern VA EMS Council. We go on record as supporting Map C.</p> <p>25. Thomas Owens, Chief of Fairfax, representing the Northern Virginia Fire Chief's Committee. We are a body of emergency responders with 13 agencies, separate entities, but everyday we act as one. It is the unanimous consensus of the Northern Virginia Fire Chief's that the Northern Virginia Council as it is currently configured and depicted by Map C, remain in tact.</p>	
	<p>Michael Berg stated that the minutes will be posted with ten days. Everyone who have spoken tonight, please provide your written comments to the office as soon as possible. Your comments have been heard and will be taken into consideration. Thank you.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.</p>	